States, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. The NRHM envisages overall rejuvenation of the health delivery system including provisioning of essential drugs and guaranteed basic health care at various levels.

Mortality due to paralysis

†489. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mortality rate due to paralysis in the country has increased three fold in comparison to developed and developing countries of the world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that since the decades from 1970 to 1990 and thereafter, deaths due to paralysis and its effects are increasing continuously in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a)to(c) Nation vide data about death due to Paralysis is not available. However, according to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) the limited data available on death due to stroke (one of the causes of Paralysis) do not substantiate the rise in mortality rates since 1970s.

Soya Yoghurt for diabetes

490. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Soya Yoghurt can check diabetes type II and high blood pressure too;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to give due publicity to make people aware about it; and

(c) if so, the outlets where Soya Yoghurt would be made available and at what price?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Scientists from US showed that fruit enriched Soya Yoghurt especially. Soya yoghurt with blue berries contained active natural components which may prevent diabetes and hypertension. This particular study is a laboratory based in vitro study and further in depth clinical studies are necessary to provide that Soya Yoghurt can be used for the treatment of diabetes and hypertension.

Side Effects of iodised salt

†491. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the use of iodised salt has been made compulsory for all, as per the orders of his Ministry;

(b) whether it has been found by the research carried out by 'UNICEF" that the possibility of hyper thyroidism, T.B., Cancer and heart related complications increase due to regular use of iodine which is life threatening;

(c) whether other alternatives of iodine cannot be used in iodine deficient areas;

(d) the total financial burden of iodinisation programme being borne by the public; and

(e) whether the National and multinational companies being benefited by the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under the PFA Rules 1955 there is restriction on the sale of edible common salt for direct human consumption, unless it is iodized. However, non-iodized common salt may be sold for purpose of iodization, iron fortification, animal use, preservation, manufacturing medicines and industrial use under proper lable declaration. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is not aware of such research results. However the consumption of iodised salt as per

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.